

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Nov 19

MONDAY

How seriously will we take the challenge from Pastor John to focus on giving thanks as we read the Bible? To help get you started, look at Psalm 51 and verse by verse, as listed, jot down something in the text for which you can be thanking the Lord:

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TUESDAY

The child's mother tells her husband that she's going to find Elisha. He tries to persuade her otherwise, but she's determined. In the end, she goes and finds him. Seeing her, Elisha sends Gehazi to ask her what's wrong. She says, "All is well."

READ: 2 Kings 4:22-26

The husband's response to her statement that she's going to see Elisha is interesting. "Going now? Today? It's a workday - not a day of rest." What I think is happening here is this: he is telling her that she should limit anything to do with God or with prophets of God for those special days set aside for such things. Observe your religious activities or whatever, but don't get fanatical. Wait for Sunday! (if spoken today) No wonder it is the wife whom we primarily read about here and in Hebrews 11:35. She was a woman of faith. And she lived out her faith daily, despite a heathen king, evil days, a spiritually weak husband, and the death of her only child.

WEDNESDAY

Coming near to Elisha, the Shunamite woman embraces the prophet's feet. Gehazi tries to brush her off, but Elisha sees that she is distressed. She tells him about her son, and Elisha begins to instruct Ghazi what he was to do, but the woman interrupts to say that she will only with Elisha.

READ: 2 Kings 4:27-30

"Lay my staff on the boy's face," Elisha instructs Gehazi. It wasn't a magic wand disguised as a staff - it's simply that Elisha believed God would raise the boy to life again and envisioned placing his staff on the boy's face as a means of connecting an action to his faith. Elisha understood well that is faith which pleases God, but he also understood that genuine faith is faith in action and, in this case, placing he staff on the boy was the action. We understand that, too, right? Genuine faith will be seen in our actions. True faith is clearly seen in my behavior and activities. "Watch me and see," the believer says. "See my faith lived out before your eyes."

THURSDAY

Gehazi rushes ahead of Elisha and the woman, and as soon as he arrives, he places the rod on the boy's face. But nothing happens! Elisha arrives and he prays. And then

he stretches his body out over the boy's, as if he were transferring his own life to him. The boy sneezed 7 times, sat up, and was restored to his grateful mother.

READ: 2 Kings 4:31-37

Time was of the essence. Not a second to lose. It was a time which called for rushing: the distraught mother had rushed to Elisha; the prophet and his servant had rushed back to Shuman with her; and Elisha had rushed into the room where the lifeless body lay. But notice the next thing we read: *he rushed in, shut the door, and prayed to the Lord*. In the middle of this rushing around and all the urgency of the moment, Elisha just stops and he prays. We get the point: at that moment, praying was the best course for Elisha. And it's the best for you and me, as well. Just stop. And pray. Even when there's no time to do so, pray. Make the time.

FRIDAY

During a famine, when the prophets were meeting with Elisha, Gehazi was in charge of cooking dinner. Various helpers collected herbs and stuff to go into the stew, and some unidentifiable gourds made it into the pot. When the prophets started to eat, it tasted so bad, they couldn't eat. "This is poison!" they cried out. Elisha added some flour to the stew and that made it fine.

READ: 2 Kings 4:38-41

"Was it the flour which made the stew safe to eat?" I asked the kids in Sunday School. "Yes!" they all chimed. "No," I thought to myself. They have missed the whole point of the story. The flour was simply a way to visualize the power of God to change that which was bad into that which is good. God did that same work in your life when you trusted Him as your Savior. He changed you, and your life ever since has been a visualization of becoming a new Creation in Christ Jesus. Your life is like a bad stew changed into a feast suitable for a king!

SATURDAY

A gift of 20 loaves of bread (probably 20 rolls) is clearly not enough to feed the 100 prophets gathered for lunch. Elisha instructs Gehazi to distribute it, and it turns out, they ate and there was bread left over.

READ: 2 Kings 4:42-44

You have heard of the feeding of the 5000, but did you remember the feeding of the 100? Perhaps not, but it was still a great miracle where God took a little and made it a lot. God does that! *Little is much when God is in it*, the song writer reminds us.

Are you laid aside from service, body worn from toil and care?

You can still be in the battle, in the sacred place of prayer.

Why? Because even when you can't serve in big ways (like lead the VBS program or teach in BRS), you can still serve in little ways, like praying for VBS, and for students

In our school to receive the teaching of the Word and to believe it. And little is much when God is in it! He will multiply your praying in ways you dare not dream! #108